

Final Meeting Minutes

Frederick County Sustainability Commission

Wednesday January 19, 2011 @ 3:00 pm

Third Floor Meeting Room, Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street, Frederick, MD

Present: Fred Ugast, Steve Chafitz, Lisa Gaver, Mark Lancaster, Margie Lance, Catherine McKalip-Thompson, Rich Maranto, Winnie Palmer, Janice Wiles and Will Morrow.

Other attendees: Kelli Goetz, Tyler Harshman, Lisa Orr (staff); Laurie Boyer (staff-OED), Brad Gottschall (Ft. Detrick), Gina Posey (FNP), Christian May (Standard Solar), Leah Crace-Jones (Glory Energy Solutions), Richard Jeffries, Michelle Liefke (Mountainview Solar & Wind and leafkey.com),

1. Call to Order and Welcome

In Chairman Don Briggs' absence, Fred Ugast called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

2. Administrative Items

Margie Lance made a motion to accept the December 15 meeting minutes as presented. Winnie Palmer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Margie Lance began a discussion on the December 17 compost meeting minutes and noted that a correction was needed to include Colby Ferguson and Bob Black as present. As to the commission members listed as "absent" at that meeting, a lengthy discussion followed re: subcommittee meetings vs. official meetings, quorum conditions, and absences of commission members at "official" meetings that aren't the regular monthly meetings. Margie Lance made a motion to strike the listing of the names of commission members not attending the December 17 compost meeting and future subcommittee official/quorum meetings. Winnie Palmer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Fred Ugast will seek clarification of the by-laws and the issue will be discussed at the next regular commission meeting in February.

3. Commission Member Comments

Will Morrow attended the Chesapeake Alliance conference in Reisterstown, MD and noted a larger turnout than last year and an increase in the younger (20's-30's) population that attended. Catherine McKalip-Thompson spoke of the well-attended Governor's Sustainability Forum that she and Don Briggs, Janice Wiles, and Hilari Varnadore had been at on January 7th. She noted the large attendance and community network opportunity as well as the abundance of information, data and resources on the Maryland.gov website. Mark Lancaster informed the group of his plan to attend the presentation of an award to Col. Robinson of Ft. Detrick on behalf of USGBC commending the bases' green building standards that are more stringent than the Federal standards. Rich Maranto announced the upcoming files for the Imagine! Frederick series; the airing of a "Midday with Dan Rodricks" segment on WYPR that day regarding the federal efforts to regulate pollution entering the Chesapeake Bay and how it rests largely on farmers' shoulders to manage. Rich Maranto also said that initial work on the 2011 Solar Tour of Homes will be commencing and he is looking for additional properties to participate. Fred Ugast offered congratulations to Lisa Orr and the Office of Environmental Sustainability on the launch of the Green Homes Challenge and encouraged Commission participation.

4. Connecting with the Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development (DBED)

Elaine McCubbin, Clean Technology and Sustainability Program Manager at DBED provided background on her career path and what led her to her current position. Ms. McCubbin discussed Gov. O'Malley's green economy goals for Maryland and how different state agencies are supporting those goals including DHCD with weatherization programs, green building requirements for state buildings, as well as the PlanMaryland.gov initiative that is releasing a state growth plan proposal later this year.

Ms. McCubbin noted the challenge of defining "green jobs" and the need to be specific. She referenced the "Sustainable Maryland" report from the Task Force on the Future Growth and Development in Maryland as a resource. Ms. McCubbin then discussed how Frederick County is aligning with state goals and the evidence of a commitment to sustainability which is evidenced through various initiatives including the County's Comprehensive Energy Plan, the establishment of the Sustainability Commission, and the Sustainable Action Plan. It was noted that with respect to the green economy and Frederick County, that there is not an incentive specific to energy for attracting businesses to the county.

Laurie Boyer from the County's Office of Economic Development add her comments including a comparison of blue collar vs. green collar jobs; green company self identification re: practices; and the FCC trade certification programs that are being offered.

Numerous comments and questions were posed to Ms. McCubbin including the links between DBED and OED (informal vs. formal); the fact that the commission is a conduit for the community-at-large to the BOCC; and the suggestion to look at Virginia and New Jersey for best practices in relation to technology incubators. Ms. McCubbin commented on the fact that we are inundated with numerous and interesting energy technologies but the best thing a county or local government can do TODAY is champion energy conservation and efficiency and foster additional work/jobs right away.

Will Morrow suggested that the County follow the State's lead on Green Building and that it may be an issue to bring to the BOCC. Mark Lancaster commented on policies that may negatively impact businesses e.g. the storm water management policy. Further comments/questions to Ms. McCubbin were tabled by Fred Ugast due to time constraints.

5. Advancing and implementing regional sustainable development

Grady O'Rear, developer of EcoVillage of Loudoun County and President of Green Advantage®, Inc. opened his presentation with comments on the DBED presentation specifically in reference to the stimulation of new jobs. Mr. O'Rear pointed out that a basic tenant of sustainability is the local production of goods and services and how the commission has the ability to influence progress in this area.

Mr. O'Rear then provided an overview of the Green Advantage®, Inc. certification program for building practitioners and organizations in the residential, commercial and residential/commercial sectors to further green building education, promote healthier indoor environments, and lessen the impact of buildings on the environment. Mr. O'Rear discussed the roots of the creation of the

Green Advantage program through an EPA grant in the 90's and an idea that was born from the needs that were unearthed during development of the EcoVillage concept. Mr. O'Rear also saw the need for building practices that address the disconnect between indoor-environment occupancy (e.g. on average people spend 90% of their time indoors) and the natural world. Mr. O'Rear presented the key objectives of the Green Advantage program and also announced that the USGBC will be recognizing Green Advantage certified personnel on LEED projects under the "Innovation in Design" credit area.

Numerous questions and comments from the Commission were posed to Mr. O'Rear about the existence of multiple certification programs and the need to consolidate and/or eliminate confusion, which organization(s) recognize Green Advantage, access to training material to support Green Advantage certification, costs of the program etc. Rich Maranto noted that Mr. O'Rear would also be presenting at Green Drinks following the commission meeting.

6. Sustainability Commission Work Plan Updates

Waste and Recycling: Steve Chafitz provided an update on the composting initiative and a recap of the compost meeting on December 17th and follow-up meeting. He indicated that he felt progress is being made. Steve's suggested next step would be to present to the County Manager and come up with a pilot program. Fred Ugast summarized three distinct opportunities: small scale farmer; commercial; and fuel use (e.g. Randy Cohen greenhouse). Fred suggested that Hilari, on behalf of the commission, ask the Board for direction. Green Building: Margie Lance and Mark Lancaster announced the upcoming presentation in February by John Gibson and Justin Wiley from the International Code Council. Catherine McKalip-Thompson presented a concept paper on behalf of the Green Building subcommittee regarding a proposed Channel 19 green building TV show. Numerous questions and comments were discussed among commission members as to production issues, challenges, business link opportunities, funding needs and policy limitations. Rich Maranto brought up the Green FNP insert as an existing outreach vehicle to be developed further. Fred Ugast asked that the item be put on the next agenda for further discussion.

7. Public Comments

Lisa Orr announced the availability registration forms for the Green Homes Challenge both there at the meeting and online for the commission members' use.

8. Adjourn

Margie Lance made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kelli Goetz